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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 11 Mar. 1952

SUBJECT

Production and Import of Roller (sic) Bearings
in the CSR

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ACQUIRED

THIS DOCUMENT HAS AN ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (5 pages)
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Attached is a five-page report concerning the production and import of roller (sic) bearings in Czechoslovakia. It is believed that this report refers to friction bearings of both ball and roller types.

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roller bearings there is Ing. Jnu Fimath, [redacted]

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6. At present, there are three factories in Czechoslovakia which engage in the production of roller bearings:

a. The former SKF factory in Perslejn nad Ohri (N51/K81) between Kaaden (N51/K91) and Karlovy Vary (N51/P69), which is equipped with [redacted] machines and which, as a result of an agreement made when it was taken over by the state in 1948, processes semi-finished [redacted] products, i.e., balls, races (Kaefige) and pins (Nieten) are made into completed bearings in this factory. The technical chief of the factory is an expert, Jan Froehlich, [redacted]

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b. The factory with the greatest capacity is the one in Lisen (P50/H50) near Erno. The official name of the factory is Zavody Presneho Stro-jirenstvi, Zavod Antonina Zapotockeho, Lisen.

c. The production of the former Holman factory at Hostivar (O51/L88) near Prague is relatively unimportant.

d. In Slovakia, in the vicinity of Poprad (O50/O68), a new large roller bearing factory is under construction. The new buildings are said to be completed and a portion of the machinery is said to be installed.

[redacted] the operation of the factory has not been initiated because of a scarcity of skilled personnel. Commencement of operations has been postponed until the spring of 1952.

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7. The designing office (Konstruktionsbuero) and the development division of the entire ball-bearing industry is in the factory at Lisen. Since, according to the Five Year Plan, Czechoslovakia is to become self-sufficient in the production of roller bearings, both of these divisions are making every effort to establish the theoretical and practical basis for the production of those types of bearings hitherto not produced, particularly self-aligning bearings, cylinder bearings (Zylinderrollenlagern) for machine tools, and tapered roller bearings. For this purpose they are gathering all the material they can find and they have also procured secret technical information from SKF through the present chief of the technical division of the SKF at Prague, Josef Motzka and his assistant, Josef Cisty.

8. The following four corporations are entrusted with the foreign procurement of machine bearings:

Kovo, a. s., Praha II Soukupovo nam. 3
Kulickova Loziska SKF a. s., Praha VII U. Mestanskeho Pivovaru 7
RIV, Praha II; Opletalova ul.
SRO, Praha II, Nekazanka

9. The planned total budget for the import of roller bearings for the year 1951 (covering these four corporations) is 1,000,000,000 Kcs. This sum is a secret. The turnover of the Roller Bearings Division of the Kovo, a.s. is set at about 500,000,000 to 600,000,000 Kcs. The chief of this Division is Ing. Josef Urban, [redacted]

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10. Sources of supply for Kovo a.s. are:

a. USSR. The deliveries from the USSR are important and comprise all types of materials. They constitute about 30 per cent of the entire imports of Kovo. Kovo has its own representative in Moscow and it is his mission to deal with the Soviet Stankoimport. Deliveries are made by rail via Cierna pri Cope.

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1. The procurement of roller bearings for Czechoslovak industry presents one of the gravest problems in the struggle to make the economy of the country independent of the West. Only a small part of the roller bearing requirement is covered by domestic production, the highest estimate being 20 percent. Still more important is the fact that, for the time being, none of the types of bearings which are required for heavy industry and the construction of machine tools are produced domestically; these types of bearings must be imported.
2. The central controlling office for roller bearings was the Zmocnenec Ministra Prumyslu Pro Valiva Loziska, but was renamed Stredisko LN (Central Control Office for Bearings and Tools), as a result of a reorganization and the incorporation of the tool procuring function. All customers for bearings have to report their planned requirements and any special requirements to this office. Stredisko LN receives reports on domestic production and thereupon determines how many and what types of bearings must be procured abroad. This office then forwards orders for bearing procurement to the state foreign trade organization, KOVO a. s. (sic) and to the foreign representatives of the firms SKF, RIV and SRO.
3. A certain Mr. Jnu Koblaza was named chief of Stredisko LN in May 1951.

Chief of the department for roller bearings is Fr. Vesely,

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The technical experts in the department are Thomas

Vacek,

and Engineer J. Vanicek,

4. Stredisko LN also controls the domestic sale of roller bearings. The organizational structure of the domestic distribution is not known. [redacted] it had not been completed. The address of the Prague office is Praha VII, Trida obrancu miru 20.

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The Czechoslovak roller bearing factories are subordinate to the Generalni Reditelstvi Presneho Strojirenstvi (Controller-General of the Precision Machine Industry) at Prague II, Stenanska ul. Chief of the department of

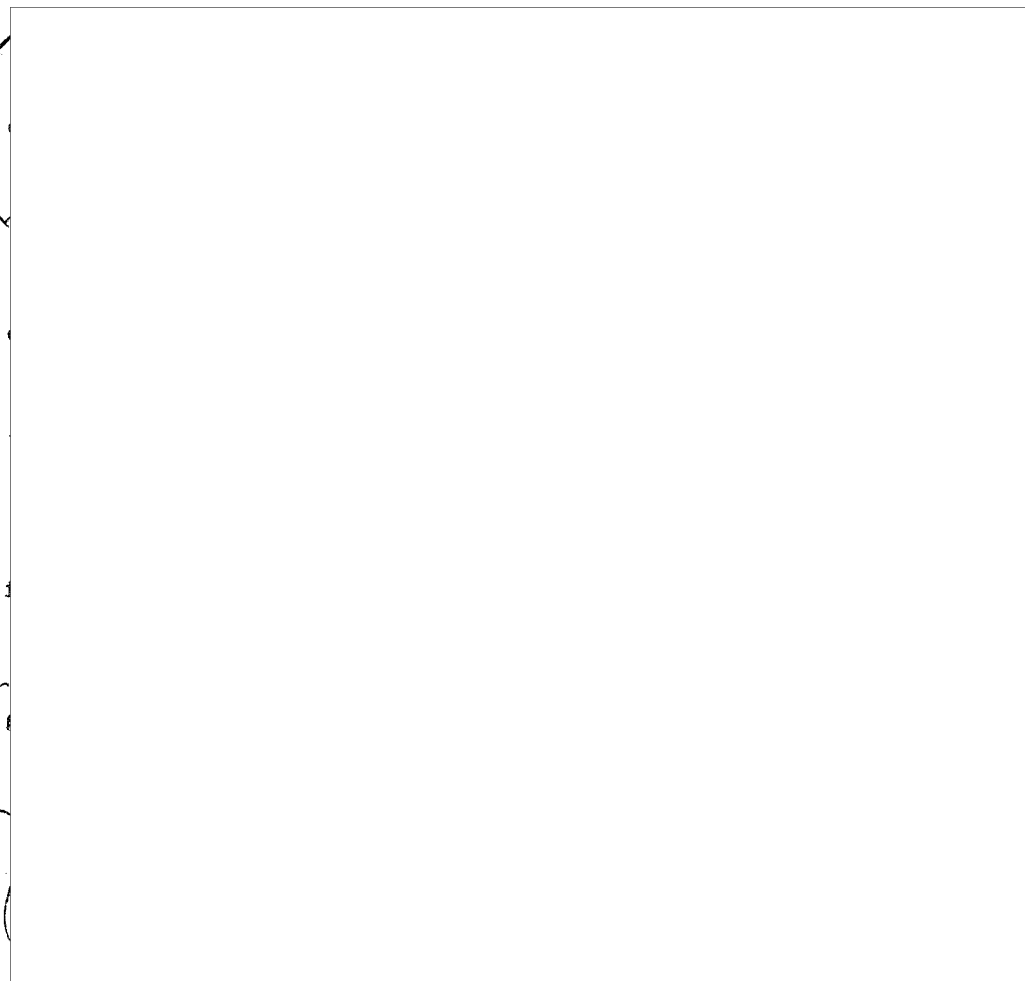
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imported through various intermediaries. Since then the traffic has greatly declined and the following suppliers remain:

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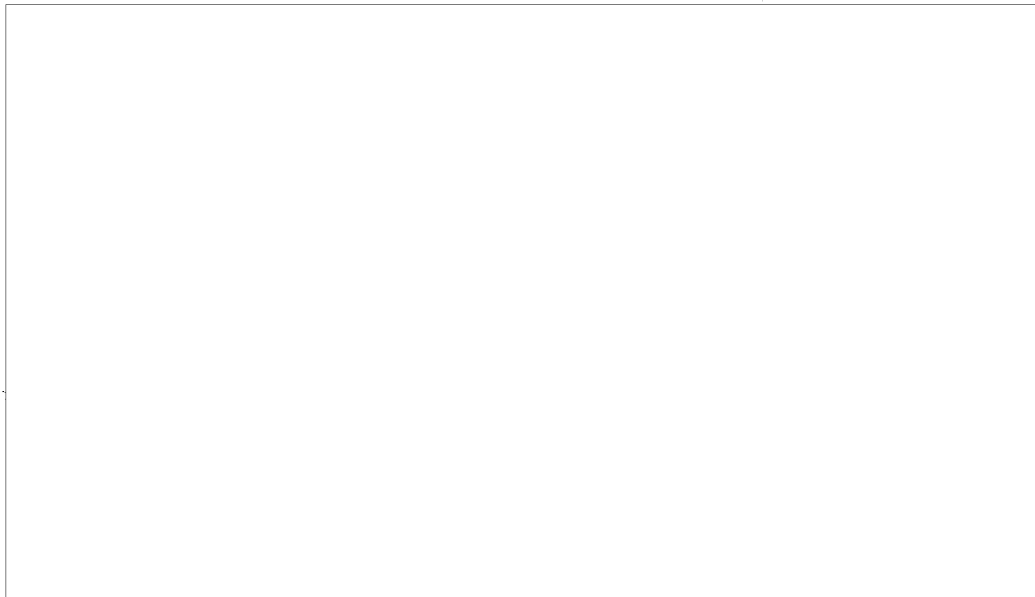


200,000

11. The total imports of the roller bearing division of Kovo a.s. amounted to about 100,000,000 Kes. in the first quarter of 1951. It is generally true that all deliveries of roller bearings have to be paid for in hard currencies, and as a consequence of the great shortage of exchange, Kovo's transactions are often curtailed by directives of the National Bank to the extent that in informed circles it is believed that the import-quota planned for this year can hardly be attained.

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